surface, and 5 feet 9 inches above, finished. They will contain about 100,000 feet of gas, when completed.

Leighton (*Welshpool*). —The foundation-stone of a new church has been laid here. It will be erected at the cost of Mr. John Naylor, of Liverpool, from designs furnished by Mr. H. Gee, architect, also, of a new hall and vicarage adjacent. The builders are Messrs. J. and W. Walker, Birkenhead.

Bolton.—Church Schools are about to be erected at Leverbridge, from drawings by Messrs. Sharp and Paley, of Lancaster, architects. They are intended to accommodate nearly 400 scholars, and will correspond in design and materials with the church and parsonage, which are built of Ladyshore terra-cotta. The whole cost of the schools is estimated at 1,000*l*., towards which Messrs. J. and W. Gray, of Wheatfield, have contributed 500*l*. The Earl of Bradford has granted the site.——Part of the premises forming the "White Horse" public-house fell on Tuesday week while some alterations were in progress, including the removal of a wall 10 or 11 feet long, which divided the kitchen from the bar, both at the back part of the building. The wall having been removed, a wooden beam of 10 inches by 8 inches was placed in its stead, below the ceiling, for the purpose of supporting the upper portion of the premises: one end of this beam gave way and fell to the floor, and immediately afterwards the ceiling of the kitchen lowered slowly about 2 feet, and then descended with a crash, the whole of the building above following, so that the upper part of the building, for ten yards in length, was destroyed in addition to the kitchen.

Preston.—The cost of the Preston Baths and Washhouses seems to have gone beyond what was anticipated. The council had already borrowed 9,000*l*. for their establishment, and they have just been called on to authorise the borrowing of 2,500*l*. more. This expenditure, according to a local paper, is wholly for the building and outfit. Exclusive of the site, the establishment at the south end of Liverpool is said to have cost only 2,300*l*., and it is thought that a like scale of expenditure might have been quite sufficient for Preston. Nevertheless it is believed that the establishment will pay. Up to 23rd ult., the returns for thirteen weeks have already been 214*l*., leaving 98*l*. for interest on loan, &c., after deduction of necessary expenses.

Newbury.—The Gas Company here have declared "a dividend of 5 per cent., payable on 10th October and 10th April;" and have announced their intention to reduce the price of their gas *to* 8*s*. "if a reasonable probability of increase sufficient to meet the reduction could be shown, so that the matter of reduction now rests with the public, as, without the increase, it cannot be done." As well might that prudent tar, who declared he would never take a dip into his own legitimate element, the water, till he had learnt to swim, have forthwith announced that the matter rested with the sea itself, as, without its instructive assurance that he *would* or could swim, it could not be done. Over cautious tars such as these, whether gas tars or maritime ones, are only likely to *learn* the truth in the brief interval between shipwreck and sinking: that is a moment, according to Coleridge and De Quincey, when flashes of mental light, more vivid far than gaslight, enter into even the darkest and most stupid souls.

Doncaster.—The spire of Christ Church, damaged by lightning, has been restored by Mr. Brown, of Sheffield, builder, without the erection of any scaffolding. A lightning conductor has also been affixed by the same tradesman.

Nairn.—A United Presbyterian church is about to be erected here from plans furnished by Messrs. Mackenzie and Matthews, of Elgin, architects. The estimated expense of the new building is from 900*l*. to 1,000*l*. It is to be erected in an open space adjacent to the High-street, and is to be in the Norman style of architecture, and capable of containing about 1,000 persons. The doors and windows are circular-headed, with mouldings running all round. The principal entrance is a large arched opening, 12 feet wide and 15 feet high, sub-divided by a pillar into two arched doorways. Immediately over this entrance there are three windows, surmounted by interlacing arches. This front is furnished with an octagonal belfry with square base, supported by corbels projecting from the wall. The interior finishings are to be American pine timber. The building materials, it is said, are to be red sandstone for the walls, and white freestone for the dressings, mouldings, &c.

Miscellaneous.—The new police station at West Bromwich has been erected by Mr. Hartland, builder, from plans by Mr. Smith. ——The foundation stones of two Roman Catholic chapels, about to be erected at Coughton and Studley, were laid on Wednesday week.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Sanitary Movement in Belgium.—The Board of Public Health in Brussels (*conseils supérieur d'hygiène publique*) has decided on the holding of a hygienic congress, at the time of the next September festivals in the Belgian capital, under the presidency of M. Liedts, minister of state and chairman of the above board. This congress, to which, besides several notabilities, the delegates of the committees of public health are invited, has for its object to determine the most necessary works for the salubrity (*assainissement*) of the towns and rural districts, and to point out practical and efficacious means for putting into practice the intentions of government. The superior board has invited the governor of the provinces to indicate the persons who would be most fit for that important and useful mission. The following is an outline of the *programme* issued by the *conseil supérieur* of Brussels. The delegates to the hygienic congress have to deliberate on the measures most effectual for insuring the successive execution of all the works of public salubrity deemed necessary, and for guaranteeing the proper employment of the local funds as well as other subsidies granted to these works. The hitherto existing regulations consisted principally in the nomination of local committees of public health, headed by the superior board appertaining to the department of home affairs; the attribution given to the commissaries of cleanliness (*commissaires voyers*) to direct and superintend the works of public salubrity in the country districts; the establishment of a general inspection of the service of public health, the compiling and circulation of instructions and drafts of regulations relating thereto, and which had become the groundwork of many useful local enactments; in fine, the arrangement and disposal of the public grants demanded by the local administrations. These measures have not been unproductive. A great number of sanitary works have been executed or projected of late, and the "considerable improvement in the sanitary condition of the working classes, in districts thus acted upon, is a fact of general notoriety." Still some grand and universal measure can only be expected from final centralisation. The programme concludes by stating the different questions which will be laid before the sanitary congress, amongst which there are several relating to the modes of *coercion* to be resorted to against those civic (*municipal*) bodies who would be behind in, or even averse to, carrying the beneficial measures of government into execution, sacrificing, then, as it would seem, the welfare of the majority of a nation to the paltry interest of a few sordid and rapacious individuals.

Baineary Affairs, Paris.—We extract the following from one of the Paris periodicals:—"As the establishment of public baths has impressed a new feature on one branch of our social institutions, the researches connected therewith are elucidating this subject every day more and more. Although for the healthy and vigorous any bath may be similarly beneficial, it has been found, of late, that bathing-tubs lined with zinc will not act beneficially on persons labouring under nervous disease, the number of whom is very considerable. Copper-lined tubs will be better for debilitated constitutions; better still those made of iron glazed or enamelled. A new species of baths has also been tried, to which its originators have given the name of 'Artificial Volcanic Baths.' Besides their great efficacy, they are likely to benefit the owners of small iron furnaces, and the people connected with such works. A large lump of red-hot scoriæ is taken out of the furnace and plunged in the bathing-tub filled with water. The effect of the melted scoriæ and the grains of iron contained therein produced on the water is very great; so that even flames are issuing at times therefrom, all which results in the dissolution of many of the alkaline and metallic substances contained in the scoriæ, of which iron in the state of a sulphate and carbonate is the most important. The water acquires quite a brown colour, and is richer in mineral ingredients than any known natural therm."

New Building for the Philharmonic Society, Brussels.—The works of this long-wished-for edifice are in active progress, and exhibit a fine arrangement of the saloons, as well for festivals as daily usages. It has appeared to be a general wish in the Belgian capital that the great literary and musical associations should hold some of their meetings in the open air, and the building of the Philharmonic Society is connected with a fine garden, situate, as it were, in the centre of the town, affording a commodious access to all parts of the building. If, as is proposed, a winter garden should be arranged here, the music could be heard from all sides of the locality, and in all seasons.

Aix-la-Chapelle.—The king has ordered that the great hall of the Hôtel de Ville, wherein many an emperor and empress have been crowned, shall be restored to its pristine splendour. M. de Cornelius has received an order for making the cartoon for a glass painting destined for the cathedral of Aix-la-Chapelle, to represent the coronation of the Virgin Mary. The picture will be 25 feet high; but as the huge window reaches a height of 80 feet by 17 of breadth, the remainder of the space will be filled up by golden stars on a sky blue ground.

SCULPTURED DOORWAY FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF CATANIA.

This very elegant doorway is on the northern side of the cathedral of Catania: it is of marble, and very beautifully executed. The mouldings are well profiled. It is dated 1577. Mons. Hittorff, in his fine work on the monuments of Sicily, thinks it must have been executed by the celebrated Gagini, but in that case, as he died six years before the date given, the final completion of the doorway must have been retarded by some circumstances. The introduction of the socle beneath the pedestal of the columns (not in good taste), leads to the inference that the latter belonged to some other monument, and were worked in.

Apparatus for Sub-marine Works.—M. Cavé has presented to the Paris Academy of Science a memoir on a diving-vessel, of which there is now a model at work in the Seine, opposite the Institute. On the deck of a dredging steam-vessel a large chamber has been fixed, five metres high and seven metres broad. In the midst of this space is a circular opening, which passes through the vessel, and in which slides a cylinder, in the way of the joints of a telescope, reaching to the bottom of the river. The junction with the air-chamber is made by a slough of leather fixed at one end on the deck, and on the other to the extremity of the cylinder. If the tube be thus arranged, it suffices to compress the air in the chamber: the water then rushes off at the under sides; a portion of the bed becomes dry, and the workmen can move about with ease. A sort of ante-chamber, with two doors, and performing the functions of a sluice, allows access to the main chamber, without interrupting the work. The model now in operation on the Seine is but one of a reduced scale, compared with two made by M. Cavé for the works of the barrage of the Nile.

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